

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 1:49:45 PM GMT -05:00 US/Canada Eastern

Subject: Robert Scot

Dear Mr. Julian,

Thank you for your interest in my biography on Robert Scot. I would be interested in any information you could give, if published it will be appropriately referenced and acknowledged in the book.

I may be able to help Mr. Newman identify his engraving. Scot did not always sign his copper-plate engravings, but they are often linked to similar engravings. I have over 100 Scot copper-plate engravings in my collection, along with many embossed revenue stamps by Scot.

A little background - I had written five articles for the John Reich Journal from 2003-2007, mostly on Draped Bust coins. I had been looking for a good source of information on Robert Scot, but there is none, which is unusual considering his 30 year tenure with the Mint. This initiated my own research on Scot, it did not take long to discover that he was responsible for many historically important engravings prior to the Mint, such as a strategic battle map of the Siege of Yorktown, and a map of the US based on the Treaty of Paris. I intend to be objective and include Scot's strengths and weaknesses.

Some of my sources are:

Research libraries - universities and historical societies, manuscript collections (many) - I am going to the Swem Library at W&M this August

Papers of Jefferson, Morris, Madison, Washington etc

Newspaper microfilm - this has been a valuable source of information to track Scot's work

Geneological library - Fiske is the best in my area

US Mint archives - may visit Philly in June or July. Have borrowed microfilm through the Seattle NARA.

Antiquarian books that I have traced Scot engravings from newspapers (Abe books mostly)

Historical information of private clubs Scot belonged to

Quaker and masonic records

Most numismatic books involving Scot and Reich engraved coins, and medals

Philatelic references

Early American artist reference books Stauffer, Dunlap etc

Periodicals from all of the above

General historical books for the American Revolution and Founding Fathers, Scottish history, etc

Best Regards,



Subj: **Copy of Nyberg correspondence**  
Date: 5/16/2010 5:26:52 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

*e Asylum*

Dear Bill:

Your message was received with thanks. I am the editor of a small Journal on coins (nothing to do with Scot, however) and the last few days have been spent in getting everything ready for the printer.

I saw your comments on e-sylum and wish you the best if ferreting out materials on Robert Scot. It has been, unfortunately, the habit of a handful of people to denigrate Scot. My personal view is that he was a good engraver and certainly deserves the recognition for this.

There is little in the Mint archives that relate to Scot or his work except for pay records and an occasional indication of materials for his office. One interesting item that was found concerned his application to Congress in January 1797 for an increase in pay due to the heavy workload. He did not get it, however. I have also done newspaper searches (post 1792) and found little in connection with the Mint.

He was given tentative credit in "The Eagle and the Shield" for engraving the die of the Great Seal in the early 1780s; I had some correspondence with the authors of this book some years ago and perhaps this will be of value to you.

As was mentioned in my letter to Wayne Homren, Eric Newman has an engraving which he thinks might have been done by Scot. He is very interested in speaking with you and perhaps the easiest way is to call him during the day at his home in St. Louis: 314-727-0850. Or, if you prefer, you could send me a phone number and he could call you. He says that the engraving he owns is similar to the one you illustrated on e-sylum.

At present I am working on a book to cover the early Mint from 1792-1837 and your book will prove a valuable source. My publication date is at least two years away, perhaps three. I do have a good working knowledge of the early Mint and perhaps would be of value in reviewing chapters dealing with Scot's work there. I would not be of any help, however, on non-Mint business. I wrote the TAMS book on Mint medals of 1792-1892 and, if you do not have ready access to this book, could send you Xeroxes of items where Scot is mentioned. Your source list seems very thorough, however, and you may already have access to it.

Sincerely

Bob

16 May 2010



Subj: (no subject)  
Date: 5/17/2010 4:02:01 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Nyberg

I do not know if you have researched the engraving work done by Robert Scot in connection with Virginia paper money issued from 1775 through 1779. In the 5th edition of my book entitled *The Early Paper Money of America* (2009), page 444, etc. and 487 I included work done by Robert Scot. This was obtained for me by another researcher who combed through the records of Virginia. None of these engravings Scot made seemed to have his name on them, but he was apparently paid for doing the work.

My basic reason for wishing to contact you was that I have been endeavoring to find the source of two terrestrial engravings which were included in the American edition of William Guthrie's *Geography*. The American edition was published in Philadelphia in 1794 and 1795 and consists of two volumes. Guthrie had published in England similar geographies beginning about 1770 and revised those from time to time before and after the American edition. I do not know whether the terrestrial engravings were included in any of the English editions or not. In the American edition the two terrestrial engravings are in the early part of Volume 1, which was dated 1794 and which had contributions from David Rittenhouse, who as you know was the first Director of the United States Mint. The American edition of the Guthrie *Geography* has never been cited as a numismatic source until David Fanning and I published a short discussion of it in the *Asylum* in 2010.

My telephone number is 314 727-0850. My email is indicated on this message. My address is 6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105. I am at home at virtually all times and will be delighted to hear from you in any way. I have been writing on numismatic matters for about 60 years and continue to do so. I was delighted to read about you in *eAsylum* and my friend Robert Julian, a fellow numismatic researcher, was kind enough to send me information as to how to contact you.

I have in my Atlas collection the *Gazetteer*, which Robert Scot prepared.

I hope the foregoing is interesting to you and look forward to hearing from you.

Eric P. Newman, President  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society

William (Bill) Nyberg



were considered the culprits by the mostly eastern or mid-western ANA establishment. This led to repeated refusals to go back to the city throughout the 1960s by board members who recalled the debacle, and particularly frustrating was the failure of PCNS to host the ANA convention on its 50th anniversary in 1965. Indeed, the ANA didn't return to San Francisco until 2005, and then it was only because its original destination, San Jose, announced that it was holding an Indy car race the same week. It turned out to be a moderately successful event, though lacking the attendance of most eastern conventions.

I'll add my own endorsement for the use of club reports in numismatic research. I used some of these in my history of the early years of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society (WPNS). -Editor

To read the complete article, see: [AN OVERLOOKED RESOURCE: COIN CLUB MEETING REPORTS](http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v13n16a16.html) ([www.coinbooks.org/esylum\\_v13n16a16.html](http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v13n16a16.html))

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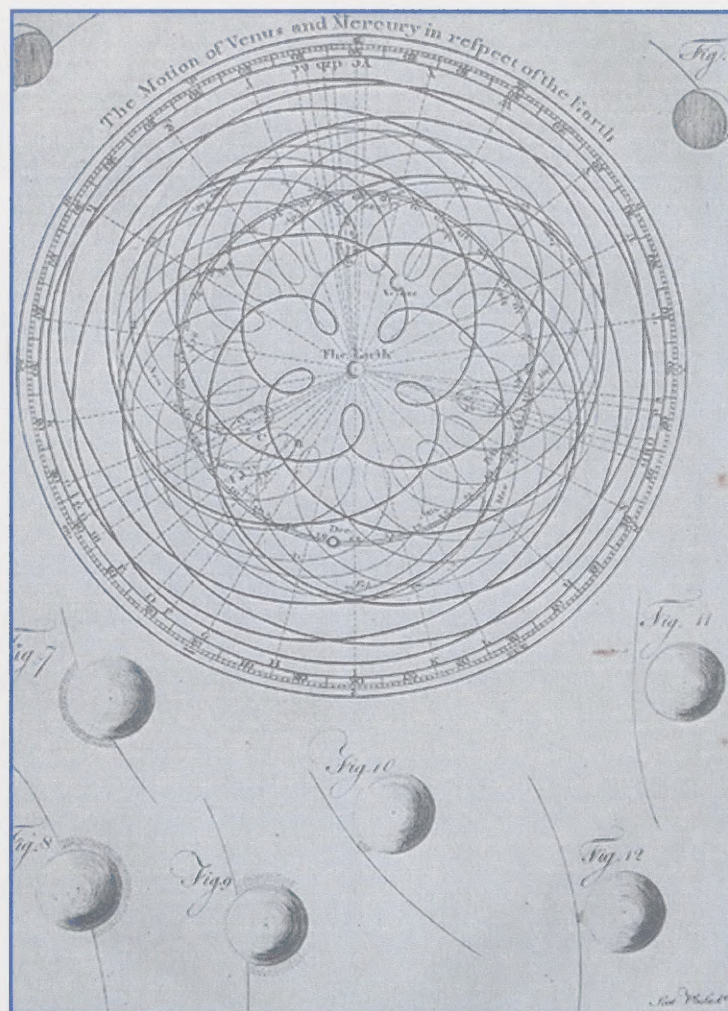
## ROBERT SCOT & THE DRAPED BUST DESIGN

William Nyberg submitted this item on Robert Scot and the Draped Bust coinage design. -Editor

The recent discussion initiated by Jim Wells on the Draped Bust design has been very interesting. I have been researching Robert Scot for several years and am in the process of writing a biography on Scot. The book will include many illustrations and a register of more than 250 individual engravings by Scot, in addition to his work for the United States Mint. All sources will be fully referenced. Scot's engraving was very much in demand, at times he worked seven days a week. Scot also trained many apprentices and assistants who went on to become prominent engravers of their own firms. Thomas Jefferson assessed Scot's engraving on October 21, 1780, stating "The workmanship was extraordinarily good."

This is an example of an original Scot copperplate engraving from my collection, both engraved and printed by Scot in 1791, *The Motion of Venus and Mercury in respect to the Earth*. Having been trained in technical drawing, I appreciate the high degree of skill needed to create this engraving using 18th century tools:





Drapery designs were described and then illustrated by Robert Scot before his appointment to the Mint, similar to the draperies used on the

*Scot Philada*

Draped Bust coin design, "The drapery must not fit too close to the parts of the body: but let it seem to flow round, and as if it were to embrace them; yet so as that the figure may be easy" etc. Also included on some illustrations was a clasp or "ornament" similar to John Reich's engraving of the Capped Bust design. This information along with pictures and references will be included in my book. These are the probable source of the Draped Bust design, using draperies of classic Greek origin, not contemporaneous American fashion.

Gilbert Stuart did not use this style of drapery in portraits of Anne Bingham. A Stuart family relative informed John Ross Snowden that Gilbert Stuart provided a drawing used for the Draped Bust coinage. The information given to Snowden was more than a generation after the fact from an unidentified relative, with no recorded mentioning of Anne Bingham. I concur with the opinion of R. W. Julian given on 4/11/2010, "the chances



of Anne Willing Bingham's portrait having been used for the coinage are slight at best." Without contemporary documentation, it remains a myth that should not be stated as fact.

As an addition to the discussion on John Eckstein, he was also listed in Browere's *Life Masks of Great Americans*, Charles Henry Hart, 1899. John Eckstein was included as one of the few late eighteenth century artists from the United States who created models ("modelling") using plaster, although his work was described as "of mediocre ability." I believe Eckstein's "models" were as stated - models by a person known to create models using plaster, to be used as reference for the important Draped Bust and Small Eagle design change. For the new design, Robert Scot would need considerable time to create all of the new master hubs for the many denominations of the Draped Bust.

This was a remarkable accomplishment as Scot had engraved dies for ten denominations by 1796, with assistance from John Smith Gardner. The February 1795 Mint job description for Engraver indicated the terminology used for the hubs and dies and does not include the word "model": "The Engraver, whose actual duties are the raising and furnishing all punches that are requisite for completion of the dies, the engraving and sinking all original dies, and raising all hubs that are struck out of them. He has an assistant, occasionally, as the business is urgent."

Karl Moulton made this statement on 4/18/2010, "In the 18th and 19th centuries, engravers did not have to work at, or be at, the Mint. This is evidenced by Scot having John Reich work on dies 'for the national coin' several years before he was appointed as the assistant engraver in April of 1807. This is brought out in the 1884 three volume set titled, *The History of Philadelphia* by Scharfe and Westcott."

The quotation in the Scharf and Westcott book did not state that Reich engraved coinage dies several years prior to 1807. The complete sentence from page 1064 reads, "John Reich, of whom Dunlap says that he was 'the best artist in his line that Philadelphia had had,' was a die-sinker, frequently employed by Robert Scot, the engraver of the United States Mint, to prepare the dies for the national coin."

The paragraph goes on to describe medals, not coinage dies, engraved by Reich before his employment with the US Mint in 1807. William Dunlap was used as a reference, in his 1834 work *History Of The Rise And Progress Of The Arts Of Design In The United States* he gave hundreds of brief biographies of early American artists. While Dunlap's book is a good historical reference, there are many errors in the details including Robert Scot's description.

To read the earlier E-Sylum article, see: [KARL MOULTON ON JOHN ECKSTEIN, ENGRAVER](http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v13n16a09.html) (www.coinbooks.org/esylum\_v13n16a09.html)

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ROBERT SCOT



**FIRST CLASS**

Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Ave  
St Louis MO 63105

